

Message Text

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TAGS: PORG, UNGA, EGEN, ECON, PINT, PDEV, UK
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): SOLOMON ISLANDS AND
TUVALU

1. THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPLE
POINTS CONTAINED IN UK MISOFF WOOD'S OPENING
STATEMENT ON THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND TUVALU BEFORE
THE C-24 SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES ON APRIL
13. (TEXT POUCHED TO SCHIELE-IO/UNP) THE SOLOMON
ISLANDS (POPULATION APPROXIMATELY 200,000) WILL
BECOME INDEPENDENT ON JULY 7, 1978 AND TUVALU
(POPULATION APPROXIMATELY 8,000) ON OCTOBER 1, 1978.
BOTH WILL BECOME CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHIES WITH THE
QUEEN AS THE HEAD OF STATE.

2. THE SOLOMONS, WHICH WILL APPLY FOR COMMONWEALTH
MEMBERSHIP, WILL RECEIVE 26 MILLION POUNDS STERLING
UK DEVELOPMENT AID OVER FOUR YEARS, WILL CONTINUE TO
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RECEIVE EXISTING GRANTS AND WILL RECEIVE AN
INCREASE OF 4 TO 6 MILLION POUNDS STERLING FROM THE
EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. INDIGENOUS SOLOMON
ISLANDERS WILL ACQUIRE CITIZENSHIP AUTOMATICALLY AND
OTHERS WITH CLOSE TIES BY APPLICATION. LAND IN
PERPETUITY CAN IN THE FUTURE ONLY BE
ACQUIRED BY INDIGENOUS SOLOMON ISLANDERS, AND

LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT EXISTING FREEHOLD TITLES BY NON-INDIGENOUS PERSONS WILL BE CONVERTED TO 75-YEAR LEASES -- EXCEPT FOR THE GILBERTESE COMMUNITY WHICH MAY RETURN FREEHOLD TITLES.

3. THE SOLOMONS WILL REMAIN HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR SOME TIME DESPITE THE SUCCESS OF THE TIMBER AND FISHING INDUSTRIES IN 1977. COPRA PRODUCTION REACHED A RECORD LEVEL IN THAT YEAR.

4. THE DATE OF TUVALU'S INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN SET SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE UK PARLIAMENT. TUVALU WILL HAVE A SINGLE CHAMBER PARLIAMENT WITH TWELVE MEMBERS ELECTED ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE. THE CABINET WILL COMPRISE A PRIME MINISTER AND UP TO FOUR OTHER MINISTERS. THERE WILL BE AN APPROPRIATE JUDICIAN SYSTEM.

5. FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE A SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OF 2.5 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, ORDINARY CAPITAL AID OF 2.6 MILLION POUNDS UNTIL 1980, BUDGETARY AID AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. HMG ALSO GUARANTEED MINIMUM AMOUNTS OF AID (UNSPECIFIED) AFTER 1980.

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6. THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IS "REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC". A FORMAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAWN UP WITH UNDP ASSISTANCE ACCORDS PRIORITY TO IMPROVING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS, EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES PRODUCTION AND CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. LEONARD

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